Amendments to the Specification:

After the title and before the first paragraph, please insert the following paragraph:

THIS APPLICATION IS A U.S. NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATION OF PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/JP03/09511.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 9, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

While Fig. 14 has been described with reference to the case where a membrane-electrode assembly is produced using the nozzle 1, ~~a printing cutting edge 20,~~ a plate 21 forming the bottom of liquid reserve and a cutting blade 22 for adjusting the thickness of coat layer may be used instead of the nozzle 1 as shown in Fig. 15. The method of Fig. 15 is the same as the production method of Fig. 14 except that ~~the printing cutting edge 20,~~ the plate 21 and the cutting edge 22 are used in place of the nozzle 1 and the description thereof will be omitted.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 17, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to solve the above-described problems, the first aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 18, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the second aspect of the present invention concerns the method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell as described in the first aspect of the present invention, wherein said drying step is effected at a drying temperature of from not lower than 20°C to not higher than 150°C.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 18, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the third aspect of the present invention concerns the method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell as described in the first or second aspect of the present invention, wherein said drying step is effected with the distance between the outlet of hot air and said electrolyte layer falling within the range of from not smaller than 10 mm to not greater than 500 mm.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 18, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the fourth aspect of the present invention concerns the method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell as described in ~~Claim 3~~the third aspect of the present invention, wherein said drying step is effected with the hot air flow rate at a position of 10 mm from said outlet of hot air falling within the range of from not smaller than 1 m per second to not greater than 20 m per second.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 19, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the fifth aspect of the present invention concerns an apparatus of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 19, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the sixth aspect of the present invention concerns a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 20, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the seventh aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 20, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the eighth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 21, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the ninth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of the eighth aspect of the present invention, wherein said solvent contains an organic solvent having a saturated vapor pressure of 0.20 kPa (1.5 mmHg) or less at 20°C.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 21, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the tenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of any one of the seventh to ninth aspect of the present inventions, wherein said organic solvent contains a compound represented by the following general formula (A):

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 22, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The eleventh aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 23, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the twelfth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of the eleventh aspect of the present invention, wherein said gelatinizing agent is a temperature-sensitive gelatinizing agent.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 23, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the thirteenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of the eleventh or twelfth aspect of the present invention, wherein said second coating compound contains said gelatinizing agent in a proportion of 33% by weight or less.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 23, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the fourteenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of any one of the seventh, eighth and eleventh aspects of the present inventions, wherein said second compound contains a thickening agent in a proportion of 33% by weight or less.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 23, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The fifteenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of any one of the seventh, eighth and eleventh aspects of the present inventions, wherein the viscosity η_1 of said second coating compound at a temperature of 25°C and a shear rate of 1 s^{-1} and the viscosity η_2 of said third coating compound at a temperature of 25°C and a shear rate of 1 s^{-1} satisfy the following relationship:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 24, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the sixteenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of the fifteenth aspect of the present invention, wherein said η_1 and said η_2 satisfy the relationship $\eta_1 > \eta_2$.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 24, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the seventeenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of any one of the seventh, eighth and eleventh aspects of the present inventions, wherein said second catalyst is a solid material having a noble metal supported thereon; and said third coating compound is a coating compound obtained by a step comprising kneading said second catalyst and a first solvent which is at least one component of said solvent with the proportion of said second catalyst being 20% by weight or more.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 24, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the eighteenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of the seventeenth aspect of the present invention, wherein said first solvent is a solvent having the highest affinity for said catalyst among said solvent components.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 25, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the nineteenth aspect of the present invention concerns a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of any one of the seventh, eighth and eleventh aspects of the present inventions, wherein said first step, said second step and said third step are sequentially effected while said substrate is being continuously carried.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 25, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the twentieth aspect of the present invention concerns a polymer electrolyte type fuel cell comprising a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell produced by a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of any one of the seventh, eighth and eleventh aspects of the present inventions and a separator through which a reactive gas is supplied into said membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 25, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the twenty-first aspect of the present invention concerns a polymer electrolyte coating compound for fuel cell comprising a resin having hydrogenionic conductivity, a second solvent capable of dissolving said resin therein and a gelatinizing agent.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 25, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the twenty-second aspect of the present invention concerns a polymer electrolyte coating compound for fuel cell of the twenty-first aspect of the present invention, wherein said gelatinizing agent is a temperature-sensitive gelatinizing agent.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 25, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the twenty-third aspect of the present invention concerns a polymer electrolyte coating compound for fuel cell of the twenty-first or twenty-second aspects of the present invention, wherein said gelatinizing agent is incorporated in a proportion of 33% by weight or less.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 26, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the twenty-fourth aspect of the present invention concerns a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell comprising a pair of catalyst layers laminated on each other

with a polymer electrolyte layer having hydrogenionic conductivity interposed therebetween, wherein said polymer electrolyte layer is porous.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 26, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the twenty-fifth aspect of the present invention concerns a polymer electrolyte type fuel cell comprising a membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell of the twenty-fourth aspect of the present invention and a separator through which a reactive gas is supplied into said membrane-electrode assembly for fuel cell.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 27, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 4 is a ~~typical~~ diagram illustrating a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly according to the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 27, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 5 is a ~~typical~~ diagram illustrating an example of a coating device for use in a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly according to the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 27, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 6 is a ~~typical~~ diagram illustrating an example of the configuration of a membrane-electrode assembly according to the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 27, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 8 is a ~~typical~~ diagram illustrating an example of a method of producing a membrane-electrode assembly according to the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 27, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 9 is a ~~typical~~ diagram illustrating an example of the configuration of a fuel cell according to the present invention.

Please delete "Industrial Applicability" at page 85, line 14.